

NEWS BULLETIN - SS ALBAN & STEPHEN

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Items for the bulletin by Noon on Wednesdays. We are a Fairtrade Parish.

22nd September 2019 - Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Julian Davies (Assistant Priest)

Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon) Sr. Anita O'Leary SSJG (Youth Co-ordinator) e-mail: anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk

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ADULTS JOURNEYING IN FAITH (R.C.I.A.) NEWS

Our adult journeying in faith programme commences on September 19th in the Parish Centre 7.30 pm. (Room 1).

If you, a friend or relative: -

Want to complete your Catholic initiation e.g. to be Confirmed in your faith

Are the spouse / partner of a Catholic and would like to know more about joining our Catholic community

Want to become a Christian e.g. Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

Just curious about the Catholic Christian way of life

Want to share and know more about your faith as a Catholic

Please contact Deacon Steve Pickard on or any of our priests on 853585 or e-mail stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

**Sponsored link www.life4seekers.co.uk
(seeking, exploring, finding)**

Canonisation of John Henry Newman

Cardinal Newman was one of the most important converts to Catholicism in the Nineteenth Century. He was an outstanding theologian, preacher, writer of hymns and poetry and has had a profound influence on the whole Church right up to the present day. On Sunday 13th October he will be declared a Saint in Rome by Pope Francis - St. John Henry is formally proclaimed worthy of our veneration for his faithfulness and sound teaching.

Fr Michael Writes During the week I found myself traveling into London on the Thameslink and then crossing London on the tube. The tube has been a constant part of my life for many years. My guess is that Camden Town tube on a Friday or Saturday evening sees the whole cross section of humanity pass along its platforms.

Even though we live out here in St Albans, I imagine that for many you, commuting in and out on a daily basis, the tube is a daily trial. Its loud, grimy and crowded. Its that opportunity to stand nose to nose or face to armpit with a bunch of strangers whose sense of personal space never quite matches up to your own.

Yet for all its busyness traveling on the tube is a remarkably lonely or isolated experience. People bury their heads in books and newspapers, or stick their headphone on or earphones in, cutting off the world and people around them. Certainly, its not the done thing to exchange greetings, still less have a full blown conversation with the neighbour beside you. If you tried to, people might think you a little strange.

Before arriving in St Albans I spent eight months living in a parish in Hampstead. I continued my work in the seminary in Chelsea. Most days I travelled in and out by tube and as I did I tried to bury myself in my breviary - the book of prayers which priests and religious are expected to recite daily. Towards the end of the office there is set of intercessions, rather like the bidding prayers we use at Mass, and it became part of my routine to look around the carriage and pray for the people around me: the pregnant women, the elderly man, the smart commuter. I knew nothing about them, their strengths, weaknesses, joys or concerns, but somehow including those around me in my prayer felt altogether right. I wasn't 'preaching' the gospel in a formal sense, but I was striving to look out of 'my' narrow world.

Maybe, as you go about your daily travel, on trains, tubes and buses, you could do something similar. Pick that person who is and will most likely remain a stranger and say a prayer for them. Its good for you, its good for me, and our faith, our hope, is that it will be good for them too.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Saturday 21st Sept

25th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

6.00 pm Eileen Brennan (RIP)

Sunday 22nd September

8.00 am Moore Family (Ints)

9.00 am M'wick James Scully (Anniv)

9.30 am Irene Payne (RIP)

11.30 am Finian Gavin (Anniv)

7.00 pm Richard Field (RIP)

Monday 23rd Sept - St Pius of Pietrelcina

10.00 am Funeral Mass for Amparo
Melendez Dieste (RIP)

7.00 pm Martin Myland (RIP)

Tuesday 24th Sept - Our Lady of Walsingham

10.00 am Funeral Mass for Sebastiano
Lazzara (RIP)

No Evening Mass

Wednesday 25th Sept - feria

10.00 am Special intentions

7.00 pm Martin Myland (RIP)

Thursday 26th Sept - feria

10.00 am Special intentions

No Evening Mass

Friday 27th Sept - St Vincent de Paul

10.00 am Richard Richardson (RIP)

7.00 pm Mary Donnelly (RIP)

Saturday 28th Sept - Memoria BVM

10.00 am John Brennan (RIP)

Saturday 28th September

26th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

6.00 pm Alec Anderson (RIP)

Sunday 29th September

8.00 am Richard Field (RIP)

9.00 am M'wick Pro Pop

9.30 am Special intentions

11.30 am Brendan Kearns (Anniv)

7.00 pm Martin Myland (RIP)

Confession: Sat 10.30-11.30 am & 6.45-7.00 pm.

Please note that Mass intentions may change at short notice to accomodate funerals

PLEASE PRAY

For those who have died For the recently departed, especially Amparo Melendez Dieste, Sebastiano Lazzara, Joan Newman, Danny Onn and Anna-Maria Rosato (Casiero), and for James Scully, Finian Gavin, Brendan Kearns and Margaret Mary Kiely whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for members of our parish who are ill.

Prayers for the Sick If you would like to include someone in the prayers for the sick please contact the presbytery. Please note that names will only be included with the express permission of the sick person themselves or, where they are not able to give that permission, with the consent of their next of kin. Names will be included in the sick list recorded in the newsletter for up to five weeks unless renewed.

THANK-YOU

For your contribution to last week's Offertory and to the retiring collection for Home Mission Sunday

This weekend and next Weekend there will be a retiring collection for the parish presentation to be made to Fr TJ, Fr Jimmy & Fr Alan on Sunday 20th October

CAFOD Family Fast day - Friday, 4th October. This autumn's focus is on drought and it's effect on children. You are invited to eat a simple meal, either lunch or dinner, and give the money saved to help children gain access to clean drinking water. You may like to eat your meal at home or you could consider joining other people at the Soup and film lunch on Sunday 12th October in the Hall [details in the bulletin]. Whatever you decide to do, you will be showing solidarity with some of the poorest in the World. Thank you. Placed by the Parish J&P group. More details from grabecki@hotmail.com, 765549. There will be a retiring collection the weekend of 12/13 October.

Farewell to Frs TJ, Jimmy & Alan

As part of our parish thank you and farewell to Fr TJ, Fr Jimmy and Fr Alan, **there will be a retirement collection after all Masses on the weekends of 22nd and 29th September.** If you are away on these dates, but would like to contribute, please put your donation in an envelope, marked 'Frs TJ, Jimmy and Alan collection', through the presbytery door. The donations will be given to the priests at their farewell Mass on Sunday, 20th October.

If you have suggestions for the memorial to mark 120 years of the MSCs here in St Albans, which will be located in the church, possibly in or near the Sacred Heart altar, please let one of the PPC members know. Donations towards the cost of the memorial will be requested later this year.

Baptism Course The next Baptism Preparation Morning for parents who want to have their child baptised is on Saturday November 9th between 10.30 am and 12.00 noon. Please register for this by having a word with Fr Julian or by contacting him on phone 01727 853585 or email juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk. If you live outside our Parish you will need a letter from your Parish Priest giving permission to have your child baptised at Ss Alban & Stephen.

Marriage Couples hoping to get married should contact the presbytery and speak with Fr Michael. Please note that at least six months notice is required for the necessary preparation and paperwork to be completed.

Become a Parish Sponsor/Godparent Every year we have been blessed to receive New Catholics into our Church Community at the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). We have been doing this for over twenty-five years and it is always such a joy for us at SS Alban & Stephen. To assist / walk alongside these wonderful people we do need volunteers, each year, to become Sponsors / Godparents willing to journey with each person on their pathway to Easter. To become their spiritual 'agony aunt / uncle' is a joy. We would very much appreciate anyone who is interested in becoming part of our team (September > Easter). Please contact Deacon Steve. The rewards are great.

Children's Liturgy More volunteers are needed to join the rota for the 9.30 am Children's Liturgy. The commitment is to running approximately 3 sessions a year. If you are able to help, please contact Catherine: details on the printed copy of the bulletin in the porch.

Dates For The Diary

Life Ascending (Ascent) Meeting on Tuesday 24th September at 10.45 am in Room 1. Talk 'Two North Wales Shrines'. All are welcome. Life Ascending is an international organisation of Christians in their later years.

Men's Breakfasts are back after the summer break. Our first breakfast will be Saturday 28th September from 8.15am in the Parish Centre. There will have tea/coffee, fruit, pastries and friendly conversation from 8.15am for 30 - 45 minutes, followed by a short DVD talk. We are starting a new series of talks which are from Bishop Robert Barron on the theme of "better understanding Jesus as our Priest, Prophet and King". We will finish by 10am. Please contact Richard (details on the printed copy of the bulletin in the porch).

CWL will meet after 10 am Mass on Tuesday 1st October in Room 1. Liz Arendt, accompanied by her lovely dog Rufus, will speak about Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. £2 to include tea/coffee and raffle. Everyone very welcome.

Blessing of Family Pets Close to the feast of St Francis of Assisi in October, a simple service of blessing and thanksgiving for the animals we love will be held at 11.30am on Saturday 5th October in Loreto School grounds. **All well behaved pets and owners welcome!** Please bring your pet for a blessing. If your pet is of a nervous disposition bring a photo and we can pray with that instead!

Bread, soup and film lunch in support of Cafod family Fast Day. Tickets £2 - available after Masses from next weekend. Saturday 12th October, lunch at 12 noon. **Green Book** [classified 12] - based on the true story of a black American musician and his driver, the film explores prejudice and segregation in 1960s Deep South America. ★★☆☆ rating. More details from Stan (details on the printed copy of the bulletin in the porch).

There is No Planet B There is an overwhelming consensus that the planet faces a climate catastrophe for which humans are responsible. We have to act in the next decade to prevent disaster and there is no suitable 'planet B'. But what can we do? An urgent and necessary discussion that involves us all. With Mike Berners-Lee author of There is No Planet B. **Please put this date in your diary!** Wednesday October 23rd, 7:45pm for 8:00pm, at Marshalswick

SCHOOLS

Open Evening Loreto College, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3RQ for prospective pupils applying to the College for 2020 will take place on Tuesday 24th September 2019. The College opens at 6pm. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road. Guided tours will be organised from 6pm to 7.45pm. The Headteacher will address parents at 6.15pm, 7.15pm, and 8.15pm. *Please note that there are no parking facilities available at the College.* Tours during the school day will take place between 30th September and 11th October (by appointment only). Appointments can be made from 25th September 2019 by calling 01727 856206.

St. Columba's College and Prep School will be holding an Open Morning for both the Prep and Senior School (4-18) on Saturday 5th October 2019 from 9.00 am - 12.00 pm. A few means-tested bursaries are available for Catholic boys entering Year 3 and Year 7. Bursary applications for September 2020 entry must be made by the end of October 2019. If eligible, boys will need to be successful in the entrance exams held in January 2020. Contact Mrs Hilary Causer, Admissions Registrar at admissions@stcolumbascollege.org or 01727 892040.

St John Fisher Catholic Primary For children starting school September 2019 Families with children born 01/09/2015 - 31/08/2016 will be able to apply for a place in Reception. You are welcome to visit our school and Miss O'Donnell, our Head Teacher will be happy to show you around. The Open days for the school are as follows: Tuesday 5th November 9:30am and Thursday 7th November 9:30am. We also have a wonderful Open Day planned with staff and children in the school on Saturday 9th November 10:00 to 12:00. To book onto a school tour please call 01727 861077.

AROUND & ABOUT

Volunteering in Your Community: Getting Started Wednesday 25th September Caritas Westminster invites anyone interested in volunteering to a free session covering the basic need-to-knows about becoming a volunteer. The event will run from 6.30pm-8.30pm, with refreshments available from 6pm, at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN. RSVP by calling 02079316077 email caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk or search

"Volunteering in the Community: Getting Started" on Eventbrite.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees 29 September. For more information see Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees/>

Come & Sing Elijah with Hertfordshire Chorus. Now is your chance to experience rehearsing Mendelssohn's Elijah. Wednesday 2nd October 7.20 - 10.00 pm, registration from 7.10 pm. Stanborough School, Lemsford Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6YR. See www.hertfordshirechorus.org.uk

Walsingham Sunday 6 October Pilgrimage to pray for the sanctity of life led by Bishop Mark O'Toole. Coach departs from St Bartholomew's, Vesta Avenue at 7.30am. Please contact Geraldine (details on the printed copy of the bulletin in the porch). £17.50 Adults, £8 children & full-time students.

Christianity and Climate Change Organised by Faith Justice and the London Jesuit Centre. 6 October, 2-6pm, Mount Street Jesuit Centre.

CPW Lecture on Faith, Politics And Power: The Catholic Effect in Public Life Catholic People's Weeks is hosting a lecture at Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent, on 8th October at 7pm. The speaker will be Mike Kane MP, Shadow Minister for Schools. The event is free. For more information see www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org/events/2019/autumn-lecture.

Youth Pilgrimage to Rome for the Canonisation of John Henry Newman. This pilgrimage for young people, led by Westminster Youth Ministry, takes place from 11th to 14th October. There are 10 spaces left and the price is £480, which includes flights, accommodation, breakfast, transfers and transport around Rome. For details, email youth@rcdow.org.uk.

Poverty in the UK Social Justice and Peace Forum, 12 October 2019 from 10.30-1.30 (including a shared lunch). Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate, 373 Bowes Road, London N11 1AA (very close to Arnos Grove station on the Piccadilly tube line). Speakers: Anna Gavurin of the CARITAS Food Collective, Paul Morrison speaking to the UN report on UK poverty, and Fr Dominic McKenna, parish priest at St Teresa of the Child Jesus in Borehamwood.

Newman Vespers Following the canonisation of Cardinal Newman, Westminster Cathedral will host Solemn Ecumenical Vespers at 3.30pm (seating from 2.45pm) on 19th October. Cardinal

Vincent will preside, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, preaching. No tickets are required. All welcome.